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Ruston peaches sweeten festival

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The CenturyTel Louisiana Peach Festival in Ruston draws visitors from across the state. This year the week-long **event** takes place Friday, June 7, through Sunday, June 16.

Much of the festival has the atmosphere of an old-time county fair. Activities include the peach growers contest, a peach hunt and a peach cookery contest. Area residents get involved in a big way with the baby photo contest, the Peach Pageant, the window decorating contest and the Community Talent Show.

"For visitors, the major activities take place Wednesday-Saturday, June 12-15," said Becky Onan, media director for Ruston-Lincoln Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"This year we've added "Politics in the Park" from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday in Railroad Park. Anyone can come and give a stump speech. That evening the Louisiana Music Cavalcade will perform."

Other Saturday activities will include the Arts and Crafts Expo **in the Ruston** Civic Center and Railroad Park, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; the Peach Tree Dental Parade, downtown Ruston, 9 a.m.; and the Ruston Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Rodeo in the Ruston Rodeo Arena, 8 p.m.

The festival is a good excuse to explore Ruston and Lincoln Parish.

Carved from existing parishes in 1873, the parish was named after the recently slain president Abraham Lincoln. The young parish was soon linked to other Southern cities via the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad. Ruston was named for Robert E. Russ, a local planter who donated roughly 640 acres for the town.


To get a feel for the area, stop by the Piney Hills Gallery tucked into the lobby of the old Dixie Theater and the Lincoln Parish Museum. Visit the campuses of Louisiana Tech and Grambling universities. And don't go home until you've absorbed a slice **of** Ruston life.

For a Louisiana Peach Festival schedule, check the Ruston Chamber of Commerce Web site at <http://www.rustonlincoln.org>.

You can also call 800-392-9032 for more information.

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